

Appl. No. 10/688,390
Amdt. dated November 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2005

Docket No. 70288-020800

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A snap together panel connection system comprising:

a first panel and a second panel each with an edge and at least two corners;

a latch and a catch located near each corner, said catch with deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and said latch with an enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls extending, wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch and wherein said catch and latch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said edge.

a straight connector with at least one latch and at least one catch, said catch with deformable slot walls and said latch with an enlarged head extending, through which the latch of the first panel is snapped into the catch of the straight connector and the latch of the straight connector is snapped into the catch of the second panel, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other, through which said straight connector is a bridge between the panels.

Claim 2 (original): The system of claim 1 further comprising at least one alignment stop to limit sliding movement of a snapped together latch and catch.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A snap together connection comprising:

two elements each having at least one latch and catch,

each catch with deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls; wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch; and,

a straight connector with at least one latch and catch, said catch with deformable slot walls and said latch with an enlarged head through which each element is connected to the straight connector with a latch or catch of each element snapped into the corresponding latch or catch of the straight connector[[],] the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other, through which said straight connector is a bridge between the elements.

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Claim 4 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 3 further comprising at least one stop to limit sliding movement of at least one snapped together latch and catch.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein each panel is substantially the same size and shape.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein at least one panel is not substantially the same size and shape as the other panel.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 3 wherein at least one element is a panel.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 7 wherein said panel is substantially the same size and shape.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 3 wherein at least one element is a selected from the group consisting of a metal frame, a wood frame, a rattan frame, a rattan grid, a wicker grid, a wicker frame, a metal sheet, cardboard, foam, fiberboard, laminate, wood and a metal grid panel.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A snap together panel connection system comprising:
a first panel and a second panel each with an edge and two corners[[:]]
~~a latch and a catch located near each corner, said catch with deformable slot walls~~
having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and said latch with an enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls extending, wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch[[],] wherein said catch and latch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said edge;

a straight connector with one latch and one catch, said catch with deformable slot walls and said latch with an enlarged head extending, through which the latch of the first panel is snapped into the catch of the straight connector and the latch of the straight connector is snapped into the catch of the second panel, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other, through which said straight connector is a bridge between panels.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The connection system of claim 10 further comprising at least one alignment stop to limit sliding movement of a snapped together latch and catch.

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Claim 12 (currently amended): A snap together connection comprising:

two elements each connected to at least two panel covers, each panel cover having a latch and a catch, each catch with a deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls; wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other; and

a straight connector having at least a latch and a catch, said catch with a deformable slot walls and said catch with an enlarged head, through which a straight connector forms a bridge between the panel covers.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 12 wherein the elements are panels.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 12 wherein the elements are frames.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A snap together arrangement comprising a substantially straight component formed by two panels connected in-line with straight connectors.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The snap together arrangement of claim 15 wherein:

Each panel has at least two panel covers, each a catch with deformable slot walls and each a latch with an enlarged head extending, along one edge;

The straight connectors each have a catch with deformable slot walls and a latch with an enlarged head extending; whereby the latches and catches of the straight connectors snap into corresponding latches and catches of the two panels thereby affixing the two panels in-line.

Claim 17 (new): A snap together connection comprising:

a first connector having a latch and a catch pair located on an end of said first connector, each catch with a deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls; wherein said latch and catch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said at least

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one end, wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other;

a second connector having a latch and a catch pair located on an end of said second connector, each catch with a deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls; wherein said latch and catch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said at least one end, wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch; and

a straight connector having at least a latch and a catch, said catch with a deformable slot walls and said catch with an enlarged head, each catch with a deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls, through which a straight connector forms a bridge between said first connector and said second connector in which each connector is connected to the straight connector with a latch or catch of each connector snapped into the corresponding latch or catch of the straight connector.

Claim 18 (new): A snap together connection comprising:

a first connector having a latch and a catch pair supported on said first connector, each catch with a deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls; wherein said latch and catch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said connector, wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch, the latch and catch combination being firmly mated with each other;

a second connector having a latch and a catch pair supported on said second connector, each catch with a deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid

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and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls; wherein said latch and catch extend at a fixed angle relative to each other and outwardly along said connector, wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch; and

a straight connector having at least a latch and a catch, said catch with a deformable slot walls and said catch with an enlarged head, each catch with a deformable slot walls having a length and being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an enlarged head having a length substantially similar as the length of the slot walls, through which a straight connector forms a bridge between said first connector and said second connector in which each connector is connected to the straight connector with a latch or catch of each connector snapped into the corresponding latch or catch of the straight connector.